

1 **Q: Please state your name and address.**

2 A: My name is Barbara King, my nickname is "Bobbie," and I live at
3 132 Forty Love Point, Chapin, SC 29036.

4 **Q: Do you have issues with your water and sewer service?**

5 A: My main issue is the high cost of water and sewer service. We
6 have two people living at our house and we use an average amount
7 of water. Currently our water bill is around \$125 per month for water
8 and wastewater removal. Blue Granite is proposing to increase our
9 total bill by approximately \$68 per month.

10 As pass-through customers, we are purchasing City of
11 Columbia water through Blue Granite. Our wastewater removal is
12 done by Richland County, but we have to pay Blue Granite for that,
13 as well. We may see a \$36 per month rate increase for removal of
14 wastewater.

15 Recently our neighborhood saw the installation of a wastewater
16 pumping facility by Blue Granite. This system was long overdue.
17 Before that was installed, we had suffered through four years of
18 sewage backup into our home. We are thankful that this problem is
19 now resolved. However, Blue Granite, as our service provider, is
20 under an obligation to provide us with at least adequate service.

21 Those repairs were long overdue. Nobody should be punished for
22 those repairs, which brought our water/wastewater service up to an
23 adequate standard.

24 **Q: How do you feel about Blue Granite's proposal to impose**
25 **automatic rate increases on its customer when the price of water**
26 **goes up?**

27 A: I am against any automatic price increases. Every time Blue
28 Granite wants to increase our bills, we need to have the Office of
29 Regulatory Staff conduct an audit. Thirty days' notice would not be
30 enough time for an audit to be done. We would not have enough time
31 to submit comments.

32 Our cost for water and sewer is extremely high already.
33 I'm very concerned that Blue Granite will soon be sending pass on
34 costs such as; construction costs, or sewage treatment costs, without
35 any hearing before the Public Service Commission.

36 **Q: What is the solution to this problem?**

37 A: If Blue Granite wants to impose automatic rate increases based
38 on a rise in the cost of water, the rate increases should be capped at
39 a very low amount. That amount should be set by the Office of
40 Regulatory Staff.

41 Automatic rate increases should be limited to the cost of water.

42 There should be no automatic rate increases allowed for
43 construction contracts or wastewater removal services.

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